

Mountain Village Immersion: From Gelon to Gilan

2 days / 1 nights

DURATION

2 Days

TOUR TYPE

Hybrid

A 2-day immersive journey from a remote Alborz mountain village to the lush landscapes of Gilan, featuring homestay, cultural activities, and scenic hikes.

Tour Highlights

- ★ Authentic overnight homestay in Gelon village, participating in daily life with a local family
- ★ Scenic hike through terraced farmlands and forests to a panoramic mountain viewpoint
- ★ Observation and participation in traditional village activities like bread-making or herb gathering
- ★ Journey through dramatic mountain passes witnessing the transition to Gilan's subtropical climate
- ★ Visit to a local tea plantation or family-owned farm in the Gilan lowlands

Day-by-Day Itinerary

Day 1: Arrival & Immersion in Gelon Village

Your adventure begins with a morning arrival in the Gelon region, where you'll meet your guide and transfer to the mountain village. The day is dedicated to immersing yourself in the slow-paced rhythm of village life, participating in daily chores, enjoying home-cooked food, and exploring the immediate natural surroundings on a guided hike.

MORNING:

Welcome & Village Orientation

Meet your host family in Gelon village over a cup of traditional tea. Your guide will provide an introduction to the village's history, customs, and the plan for your stay. Take a short walking tour of the village center, observing the traditional stone and wood architecture.

AFTERNOON:

Participatory Village Activity

Join your hosts in a daily activity. This could be helping prepare lunch using local ingredients, learning to bake traditional bread in a clay oven (tanoor), or assisting with seasonal tasks like tending to a vegetable garden or gathering wild herbs from the hillsides.

Home-Cooked Lunch with Host Family

Share a leisurely lunch prepared with your help, featuring local dishes such as hearty stews, fresh herbs, yogurt, and homemade bread. This is a prime time for informal conversation and learning about family life.

Afternoon Hike to Panoramic Viewpoint

Embark on a guided 2-3 hour moderate hike through the village's terraced farmlands and into the surrounding oak and juniper forests. The trail leads to a stunning viewpoint overlooking the village and the vast mountain ranges. Your guide will explain the local flora, fauna, and geology.

Evening at Leisure & Family Dinner

Return to the village for some free time to relax, journal, or simply observe the evening routines. Later, join the family for a hearty dinner, often featuring dishes like Dizi (Abgoosht) or local grilled meats. The evening may include storytelling or simple music by the fireplace.

Overnight accommodation

Day 2: Journey from Mountains to Gilan

After a village breakfast, bid farewell to your host family and begin the scenic descent from the Alborz mountains into the subtropical province of Gilan. The journey itself is a highlight, passing through dramatic gorges and witnessing the landscape transform. The day concludes with a taste of lowland rural life before departure.

MORNING:

Morning Village Life & Farewell

Enjoy a final breakfast with your host family and observe or participate in the morning routines, such as feeding animals or preparing for the day's work. A heartfelt farewell before packing up for the next leg of the journey.

Scenic Drive to Gilan

Begin the approximately 3-hour drive through winding mountain roads and passes. Watch as the dry, rugged mountain scenery gradually gives way to lush, green forests, rice paddies, and tea plantations. Your guide will narrate the geographical and cultural transition.

AFTERNOON:

Visit to a Gilan Village or Farm

Stop in a typical Gilan village or at a family-run farm. Depending on the season, you might visit a tea processing unit, a rice paddy, or a citrus orchard. Experience the distinct Caspian culture, architecture (wooden houses on stilts), and compare it with your mountain experience.

Traditional Gilani Lunch

Savor a lunch of Gilani cuisine, which prominently features rice, fish from the Caspian Sea or local rivers, olives, garlic, and fresh herbs like cilantro and parsley. Dishes like Mirza Ghasemi (smoked eggplant with tomato and egg) or Baghala Ghatogh (fava bean stew) are common.

Final Scenic Walk & Tour Conclusion

Take a gentle walk through the verdant landscapes—perhaps along an irrigation canal, through a bamboo forest, or in a rural area—to fully appreciate the humidity and fertility of Gilan. The tour concludes here, with transfers arranged to your next destination in Gilan (e.g., Rasht or the coast).

What's Included

- ✓ Professional local English-speaking guide
- ✓ All transportation during the tour (4WD vehicle for mountain roads)
- ✓ One night accommodation in a village homestay (shared facilities)
- ✓ All meals: 2 lunches, 1 dinner, 1 breakfast
- ✓ All activities and village entrance fees as per itinerary
- ✓ Bottled water during transfers and hikes

Not Included

- ✗ Transportation to the tour starting point in Gelon region
- ✗ Travel insurance (highly recommended)
- ✗ Personal expenses and souvenirs
- ✗ Tips for guide and host family
- ✗ Any additional meals or snacks not specified